United Nations S/2018/254

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 March 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 31 January 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

The ceremony, held on 2 January 2018, at which the national flags of the newly-elected members of the Security Council were solemnly installed at the entrance to the Security Council Chamber, was most warmly received by the incoming Security Council ambassadors and their delegations. This innovative practice would not have been possible without your support and the able assistance of the Secretariat. We are grateful to you and the Protocol and Liaison Service, as well as to the relevant staff of the Departments of Political Affairs, Safety and Security, and Public Information, for their assistance in making the ceremony an unquestioned success.

Kazakhstan introduced the flag installation ceremony during its Presidency in January, which coincided with the start of the new term for incoming non-permanent Council members. The aim was to recognize the trust that the international community has placed in these six countries to uphold the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. The ceremony was also a fitting occasion at which to commend the dedicated efforts of the outgoing members, which have left their mark on the Council through their outstanding work. The ceremony followed proper protocol by honouring the Governments of the new Council members, which had been chosen by the wider United Nations membership to act on their collective behalf in addressing the main security challenges facing the world today.

The members of the Security Council are united in the conviction that, with the continued support of the Secretariat, the flag installation ceremony each January will become a meaningful annual tradition.

Your personal support in this endeavour would reinforce the important contribution that the elected Council members make to further the purposes and ideals for which the United Nations stands.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Ambassador

18-04528 (E) 260318

Please recycle